

# Fauvism

1905-1908

# Style Characteristics

**Emphasis on intense unnatural colour**

**Bold brushstrokes**

**Bold, flat patterns and shapes**

**Simplicity of form**

**Energy through lines**

**Colour for colour's sake rather than representational values**

# The Influences

In a sense, **Fauvism** evolved from **Pointillism** (Post-Impressionism) which, in turn, had evolved as a development of **Impressionism**. The **open-air** paintings of the Impressionists emphasized the way strong light broke up the uniform colour of surfaces into shimmering bits of reflected colour. They abandoned the carefully graduated tonal painting of the past and built their pictures with small brush strokes of pure colour.

**Matisse** dabbled in pointillism for awhile, but, his instinct was to make every stroke of his painting strong. He and his group developed a style of **broad, short** strokes of **bright contrasting** colours.



# Portrait of Madame Matisse





# The Red Room

The composition of this painting is casual and simplistic. The space is very open. Matisse reduced the walls and floor to one continuous sheet of uniform red. Line is an important part of this painting. There is absolutely no tonal forms in the painting, without the line one would get lost in the red.

# Harmony in Red



- oil on canvas
- Not a view of inside a dining room, but a view of Matisse himself inside his studio, inside his head
- Maid represents himself, placing fruit as he paints fruit

# Woman with a Hat



- Believed to be his wife, causing much negative criticism
- First shown at Salon D'Automne where the word "fauve" meaning "wild" or "beastly" was first coined

# The Dance



- One of Matisse's most famous and important pieces
- Commissioned in 1910 by a leading Russian collector
- Reflects folk dancing and pagan rituals
- Famous for its passion and expressive resonance
- Powerful red, blues and greens, reflect the uniting of Man, Heaven and Earth
- Firm outlines, red is a symbol of inner heat, blue is the cosmos and the green hill is charged with energy promoting the dance





Blue Nude

